

GARDEN ORNAMENTATION

We gardeners are frequently wary of using ornaments and focal points in the garden. Clearly they are down to personal taste, and, in other peoples eyes, they can ruin a garden.



Plants on the other hand, that are considered to be in the wrong place are of less concern. Possibly because we are more forgiving of them if they have chosen to seed themselves in a space in the garden that is convenient to them but not us.

Placed correctly, ornaments and focal points give some permanence to a garden, as they change very little over the years.

Shady areas within the garden can be given a purpose if you place a statue or something there. Although it's nice, we don't actually have to fill every nook with plants.

Ornaments placed on the top of a wall near to the top of some steps can produce an entry or transitional feel when navigating them.

Placing an ornament that can only be half glimpsed can encourage visitors to explore the garden further which is always better than having a one dimensional garden that can be viewed in its entirety in a millisecond of entering it.

Be brave, there is no need to shy away from garden ornamentation, they become old friends over the years and you can see their relevance once they are gone.

Happy Gardening,
STUART MABBUTT

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

As we closed our doors for the summer we celebrated a busy year with a party and a 'Graduation' Ceremony. There was lots of fun, food and a few tears as we said goodbye to those children moving into Foundation class. The leavers presented us each with a gorgeous book filled with messages and pictures from the children and we would like to thank everyone for their presents and kind words. We can be contacted on 01865 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

**COULD YOUR VILLAGE GROUP
MAKE USE OF A SMALL GRANT?**

The Harding Bequest is a small charitable trust which for some years has made grants to a variety of community causes in the parish. Any village group may apply to the Bequest for a grant.

If you are involved in a village organisation that may benefit from a small grant you are invited to contact Jenny Warwick (392 076), Secretary to the Harding Bequest, for an application form.

PLEASE HELP VILA MANINGA, MOZAMBIQUE

How many times do you use a search engine a day? 5 - 10? How often are we simply lining Google's pockets?!

Well, here's a new easy way to raise money for Vila Maninga, Mozambique that doesn't involve you parting with extra cash. Simply use everyclick.com as your search engine and Vila Maninga gets a small donation per search. It takes 3 minutes to sign up, go to <http://www.everyclick.com/vilamaninga>, sign up and start searching and follow the simple prompts to make this your default search facility. We are aiming to get 1,000 people signed up by December 2010 which we hope will raise £13,000, training 6 medical students for a year in Mozambique. In a country where there are extremely limited health facilities and only 600 medical doctors in the whole country, this would have a huge effect. Please sign up now! Thank you!

GIG THOMAS Vila Maninga Registered Charity No. 10959754
September 2010

REPORT FROM GARD

This is the final report relating to proceedings at the Public Inquiry which ended on 18th Aug with the Closing Submissions from the main groups taking part.

I have given below a very brief summary of each submission, but at the time of submission of this copy Thames Water had not yet made their statement. This will undoubtedly contain rebuttals of almost everything others have put forward in evidence against their Water Resources Plan. The thrust of most of the objections to the Thames Water plan concerned failure to justify the proposed Upper Thames Reservoir on the basis of need, and failure properly to consider the alternatives in the event of future long term demand.

Wren Wooster made a brief and forceful statement, as an individual, stressing the adverse impact of the reservoir on the local community and the water which would be released by the closure of Didcot "A" Power Station in about 2015.

The Whitewater Vale Group (River Lodden) were concerned about abstractions from the river which meant that over 60% of the flow was sometimes treated effluent. They were keen to see reductions in abstractions. (An Environment Agency issue).

CPRE, which has been highly supportive of GARD throughout, directed their criticisms towards the environmental and landscape damage a reservoir would cause, stressing the severe limitations of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) provided by Thames Water.

The Consumer Council for Water concentrated on their concern that compulsory metering would mitigate against the poorest people and said some legislation was needed to protect this group. **The Cotswold Canal Trust** summarized the benefits and practical sense in restoring this already partially repaired heritage waterway, and then using the canal for Severn Thames water transfers. The cost would be about one quarter of the £1Bn estimated for the Abingdon reservoir.

GARD (45 pages of submission) set out the case most readers will know well.

There is no need for the reservoir before 2035, An addition to demand of 100MI/d Sustainability Reductions included by Thames Water is unjustified. Scare tactics by Thames Water about fines resulting from the impact of the EU Water Framework Directive are unjustified and the company has failed properly to consider the alternatives to a reservoir. This is on the GARD Website.

OCC and VWH. (21 pages) The local Councils combined their evidence. They summarized their strong objections to the SAE which was inadequate and strongly biased towards the Abingdon reservoir in content, omissions and the overall presentation of charts and criteria.

The Environment Agency (82 pages) concentrated on the failure of Thames water to follow EA guidelines and said the plan was not fit for purpose or robust, with opaque judgements, and the preferred option not demonstrated to be the best.

Thames Water squirmed throughout but will no doubt bite back!(125 pages). We will now have await the Inspectors Report due some time in the next few months.

NICK THOMPSON Hon Chairman GARD

**KEY STAGE 1 & 2 TUTOR
(CRB CHECKED)**

Primary Teacher, experienced in teaching children with Dyslexia and dyscalculia. Available any afternoon/evening or weekend. Please ring 01865 391200

If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, please contact the editor for more publicity! 01865 391725 or editor@madnews.co.uk